

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A connector, comprising:

at least one terminal fitting (10; 110),

a housing (40; 130) with at least one cavity (42; 136) for accommodating the terminal fitting (10; 110), and

a guiding groove (46; 138) at a corner of an inner wall of the cavity (42; 136) and extending substantially along an inserting direction (ID) of the terminal fitting (10; 110),

wherein:

a side surface (14; 118) of the terminal fitting (10; 110) has a stabilizer (30; 121) for engaging the guiding groove (46; 138) and guiding the terminal fitting (10; 110) into the cavity (42; 136) when the terminal fitting (10; 110) is oriented properly and for interfering with an opening edge (62; 143) of the cavity (42; 136) at a side diagonal to the guiding groove (46; 138) to prevent insertion of the terminal fitting (10; 110) into the cavity (42; 136) when the terminal fitting (10; 110) is oriented improperly, and

a posture holding portion (35; 125) is formed at a side surface (15; 119) of the terminal fitting (10; 110) other than the side surface (17) intersecting a base end of the stabilizer (30; 121), the posture holding portion (35; 125) bulging out toward the inner wall of the cavity (42; 136) at a position at or before the stabilizer (30; 121) with respect to the inserting direction (ID) of the terminal fitting (10; 110), the posture holding portion (35; 125) contacting the inner wall of the cavity (42; 136) when the terminal fitting (10; 110) is oriented

improperly thereby preventing the terminal fitting (10; 110) from falling into the guiding groove (46; 138) and inclining.

2. The connector of claim 1, wherein an escaping groove is formed in the inner wall of the cavity (42; 136) and extends substantially along the inserting direction (ID) for accommodating the posture holding portion (35; 125) when the terminal fitting (10; 110) is oriented properly.

3. The connector of claim 1, wherein the cavity (42; 136) is a substantially rectangular tube, the posture holding portion (35; 125) contacting an inner wall of the cavity (42; 136) at a side adjacent to the guiding groove (46; 138) when the terminal fitting (10; 110) is oriented improperly with respect to the cavity (42; 136).

4. The connector of claim 1, wherein a front portion (31; 122) of the stabilizer (30; 121) along the inserting direction (ID) is substantially normal to the inserting direction (ID) and a rear portion of the stabilizer (30; 121) along the inserting direction (ID) is rounded with respect to the inserting direction (ID).

5. The connector of claim 1, wherein one side (16; 17) of the terminal fitting (10; 110) has a cut-away portion (21) for engaging a lock (49; 137) of the housing (40; 130), the stabilizer (30; 121) extending rearward from the cut-away portion (21).

6. The connector of claim 1, wherein one side (16; 17) of the terminal fitting (10; 110) has a locking projection (23) for engaging a lock (49; 137) of the housing (40; 130), the height of the stabilizer (30; 121) being larger than the height of the locking projection (23).

7. The connector of claim 1, wherein the terminal fitting (10; 110) has a main portion (11; 112), a bead (37) projecting out on leading end of a side wall (14) of the main portion (11; 112) and extending substantially forward and backward for reinforcing the main portion (11; 112).

8. A connector, comprising:

a housing (40; 130) with opposite front and rear ends and at least one cavity (42; 136) extending between the ends, the cavity (42; 136) being of substantially rectangular cross-section and having first and second opposed substantially parallel surfaces and third and fourth opposed substantially parallel surfaces extending between the first and second surfaces, a guiding groove (46; 138) at a corner of the cavity (42; 136) defined by the first and third surfaces and extending from the rear end of the housing (40; 130) towards the front end, an escaping groove (56; 139) formed in the second surface of the cavity (42; 136) and extending from the rear end of the housing (40; 130) towards the front end; and

a terminal fitting (10; 110) having opposite front and rear ends and a main body (11; 112) with a substantially rectangular cross-section configured for insertion into the rear end of the cavity (42; 136), a stabilizer (30; 121) projecting from the main body (11; 112) and disposed for sliding insertion into the guiding groove (46; 138) when the terminal fitting (10; 110) is in a selected orientation relative to the cavity (42; 136) and a posture holding portion (35; 125) projecting from the main body (11; 112) and disposed for sliding insertion into the escaping groove (56; 139) when the terminal fitting (10; 110) is in the selected orientation relative to the cavity (42; 136).

9. The connector of claim 8, wherein a distance from the front end of the terminal fitting (10; 110) to the posture holding portion (35; 125) is less than a distance from the front end of the terminal fitting (10; 110) to the stabilizer (30; 121).

10. A terminal fitting (10; 110) to be inserted into a cavity (42; 136) of a housing (40; 130), a guiding groove (46; 138) formed at a corner of an inner wall of the cavity (42; 136), wherein:

a side surface (14; 118) of the terminal fitting (10; 110) has a stabilizer (30; 121) for guiding insertion of the terminal fitting (10; 110) into the cavity (42; 136) by engaging the guiding groove (46; 138) when the terminal fitting (10; 110) is oriented properly, the stabilizer (30; 121) interfering with an opening edge (62; 143) of the cavity (42; 136) at a side diagonal to the guiding groove (46; 138) for preventing insertion of an improperly oriented terminal fitting (10; 110) into the cavity (42; 136), and

a posture holding portion (35; 125) is formed at a side surface (15; 119) of the terminal fitting (10; 110) other than the side surface (17) intersecting a base end of the stabilizer (30; 121), the posture holding portion (35; 125) bulging out toward the inner wall of the cavity (42; 136) at a position at or before the stabilizer (30; 121) with respect to the inserting direction (ID) of the terminal fitting (10; 110), the posture holding portion (35; 125) contacting the inner wall of the cavity (42; 136) when the terminal fitting (10; 110) is oriented improperly for insertion into the cavity (42; 136), thereby preventing the terminal fitting (10; 110) from falling into the guiding groove (46; 138) and inclining.

11. The terminal fitting (10; 110) of claim 10, wherein a front portion (31; 122) of the stabilizer (30; 121) along the inserting direction (ID) is substantially normal to the inserting direction (ID) and a rear portion of the stabilizer (30; 121) along the inserting direction (ID) is rounded with respect to the inserting direction (ID).

12. The terminal fitting (10; 110) of claim 10, wherein one side (16; 17) of the terminal fitting (10; 110) has a cut-away portion (21) for engaging a lock (49; 137) of the housing (40; 130), the stabilizer (30; 121) extending rearward from the cut-away portion (21)

13. The terminal fitting (10; 110) of claim 10, wherein one side (16; 17) of the terminal fitting (10; 110) has a locking projection (23) for engaging a lock (49; 137) of the housing (40; 130), the height of the stabilizer (30; 121) being larger than the height of the locking projection (23).

14. The terminal fitting (10; 110) of claim 10, wherein the terminal fitting (10; 110) comprises a main portion (11; 112), a bead (37) projecting out on leading end of a side wall (14) of the main portion (11; 112) and extending substantially forward and backward for reinforcing the main portion (11; 112).

15. A terminal fitting (10; 110) having a front end and a substantially rectangular tubular main body (11; 112) substantially adjacent the front end, a stabilizer (30; 121) projecting out from the main body (11; 112) substantially at a corner defined by first and second intersecting surfaces (14, 17) of the main body (11; 112), and a posture holding portion (35; 125) projecting out from a third surface (15; 119) of the main body (11; 112) at a position before the stabilizer (30; 121) with respect to the front end of the terminal fitting (10; 110).

16. The terminal fitting (10; 110) of claim 15, wherein a front edge (31; 122) of the stabilizer (30; 121) is substantially normal to a line defined by the corner between the first and second surfaces.

17. The terminal fitting (10; 110) of claim 16, further comprising a reinforcing bead (37) projecting out on the main portion (11; 112) at a position substantially opposite the posture holding portion (35; 125).